

SEN. DODD ASKS BIG SPACE ROLE FOR MILITARY

Warns About Letting Reds Take Lead

BY WILLIAM MOORE
(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

Washington, Feb. 28 — The

United States warning system against intercontinental ballistic missiles would become worthless overnight if the Russians secretly develop a fleet of space craft capable of launching nuclear warheads, Sen. Thomas Dodd [D., Conn.] warned today.

Calling for more emphasis on the military aspect of the United States development of the space age in an address before the Foreign Relations Commission of the American Legion, Dodd struck at the Russian's secrecy over their space program and said:

"We cannot help asking ourselves whether this secrecy is intended to conceal a massive soviet technological effort designed to establish the Kremlin's unchallenged military control over the space environment surrounding the earth."

Explains His Reasoning

Elaborating on this statement that a secretly developed Russian space craft fleet could nullify this country's defense against intercontinental ballistic missiles, Dodd said.

"It would take only minutes from the moment of launching to the moment of impact. Civil defense would become meaningless.

"We must recognize that our very access to the space environment for peaceful activities will in the future depend on our ability to protect the men and equipment we send there.

"If the Kremlin should ever succeed in gaining military control of new space, that is of the region close to earth, it would be in a position to shoot down our vehicles already in space and deprive us of future access to space.

Cool to Joint Efforts

Dodd expressed skepticism over Nikita Khrushchev's proposal that the United States and Russia pool their efforts in the exploration of space, saying:

"If there is to be a joint effort of any kind, it will have to be based, in the first instance and from the very first day, on the prohibition of secret launchings of space vehicles of any kind. This would involve prior announcement of all launchings, international inspection of all payloads, and international observation of all space shots."

Noting that Khrushchev's proposal had skirted the question of inspection and control, Dodd said:

"Khrushchev's proposal boils down to the fact that the Soviets want to get their hands on American know-how in those areas where we are greatly ahead of them, while they are prepared to surrender no knowledge and no control in the one area in which they are unquestionably ahead of us."

Reds Ahead on Boosters

Dodd said the Russians "are at least 18 months ahead of us" in the development of maneuverable space craft and of giant boosters to hurl them into space, but the United States is far ahead in other fields of space exploration.

Noting that the primary dedication of the National Aeronautics and Space administration is to the cause of science and space exploration, Dodd proposed that the three armed services be represented on the NASA council, and that a qualified military officer be appointed executive director of the council, with power to coordinate military and scientific programs.

Military Should Be Partners

"Our military experts," Dodd said, "should be made more nearly equal partners in the direction of our over-all space program."

Despite the warnings of military leaders, Dodd said, the United States space program is primarily concerned with the peaceful pursuits of science. Of the 50 billion dollars to be spent on space exploration in this decade, he said, only 15 billion dollars is for the military.

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